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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **Yoshihiro TAKASHIMIZU et al**

Serial No.: 09/891,387

Group Art Unit: 2176

Filed: **June 27, 2001**

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: **RELAY APPARATUS**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 31, 2001

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

U.S. Patent Appln. Serial No.: 09/891,387

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

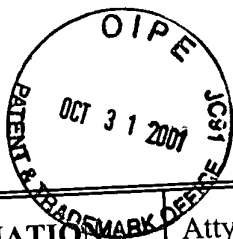
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Enclosures: PTO-1449 and 6 references



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 010803	Serial No. 09/891,387
	Applicants: Yoshihiro TAKASHIMIZU et al	
	Filing Date: June 27, 2001	Group Art Unit: 2176

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA					
_____	AB					
_____	AC					
_____	AD					
_____	AE					

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____ AF 56-103745	08/19/81	Japan	Abstract
_____ AG 8-256173	10/01/96	Japan	Abstract
_____ AH 11-168559	06/22/99	Japan	Abstract
_____ AI 11-046207	02/16/99	Japan	Abstract
_____ AJ 00-50258	02/29/00	Japan	See below

OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/716,643, specification, claims and drawings filed on November 21, 2000 corresponding to JP 00-50258.
_____	AL	
Examiner		Date Considered